

# OPINIONS

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# DIVERSIONS

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# SPORTS

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close door on Don's clinch **PAGE 10**

## RANCHO SANTIAGO COLLEGE

# el Don

Volume 68, Number 2

17th at Bristol Street Santa Ana, California 92706

February 14, 1992

# Crime rate rising rapidly at RSC

**Burglary up 70 percent, larceny up 35 percent. Security chief asks for \$570,000 for staff and new equipment. He wants bullet proof vests and guard towers.**

By Debi Carr  
el Don Staff Writer

With burglaries up 70 percent, and an overall increase in criminal activities, J.R. Johnson chief of security, requested before the board of trustees an additional \$570,000 to add staff members and additional equipment.

According to Johnson, larceny has also increased by 35 percent since last year. Equipment requests included towers to be built over certain parking lots, in an effort to minimize larceny to vehicles and optimize visibility by security officers. Johnson said he wanted to purchase 13 bullet proof vests for night patrols who feared

catching a stray bullet from occasional gun fire that occurs in nearby neighborhoods and the increased criminal activities on Santa Ana and Centennial campuses.

The opposition feels that towers would give people the impression that the campus was a prison. But Johnson insists that there are ways  
Please see CRIME, Page 3

**Board passes rules after student allegedly harrassed woman, broke into computer system**

By Debi Carr  
el Don Staff Writer

After a student entered the RSCCD computer system eight times during registration and altered a female student's classes 28 times, the board of trustees voted Monday to prohibit computer tampering within the col-

lege district.

The prohibition, now a part of the Guidelines for Student Conduct, makes computer tampering grounds for expulsion.

Until these prohibition guidelines were in place, "A student could confess to tampering but the college had no grounds to  
Please see RULES, Page 3

## Stormy weather...



WET WEDNESDAY-Unaware that the college had been closed, two students plow down Bristol Street to get to class.  
Please see Special Coverage, Page 5.

## Board selects controversial trustee as new president

By Claudia Saucedo  
el Don Staff Writer

Controversial trustee Brian E. Conley was unanimously voted president of the RSCCD Board of Trustees on December 9 at their regular meeting.

The appointment came following a year long battle between board members after



Board President Brian Conley

Conley and Trustee Charles W. "Pete" Maddox filed a letter, unilaterally, with Orange County District Attorney Wallace Wade calling for an investigation into the

possible wrongdoing in the operation of the college's now defunct swap meet.

Conley served as Board clerk for four months prior to this appointment and had just returned to his committee posts after having been removed from them for nearly a year.

Two years ago, Conley had been passed over when his turn to be rotated into Board clerk was up for nomination. However, a sudden twist took place when Board Vice-President John Dowden resigned in September. Dowden was in line to be appointed president this year. The rotation process resulted in Conley, (after only serving as clerk for four months) skipping the next position of vice-president and assuming the position of president.

As president, Conley said his main goal is, "To create an atmosphere where there is a sensitivity for student and faculty needs, and, as a board member making sure that

Please see CONLEY, Page 3

## EDUCATION

# Work force woes add to flock of ages

**Older students now make up nearly 25 percent of RSC population**

By Ami Gregoire  
el Don Staff Writer

If you've looked around RSC's campus lately, you've probably noticed that a large percentage of the population is comprised of older adults.

In fact, during the fall semester of 1991, there were nearly 15,000 students between the ages of 25 and 50 enrolled in classes at RSC. The largest percentage of these stu-

**See Related Story Page 4**

dents fall between the ages of 31 to 40 and comprise 22 percent of the school's student population.

There are a number of reasons for the large older student population at RSC and community colleges in general. A large number of people in the work force are realizing the importance of a college degree and recognizing that if they want to move ahead, they need the skills to do so. Going back to school is the most logical step.

"Everyone in my office knew WordPerfect except for me, so I was at a real disadvantage. Once I enrolled in the computer class, I knew that it would help me move up at work," Kathy Shirk, a 39-year-old part-

time student at Rancho, said.

Other reasons for going back to school range from a desire to improve basic skills to pursuing a personal interest. A majority of the older students are enrolled in classes such as creative writing and art.

Paula Hendrick, a 40-year-old student at Rancho, enrolled in a music appreciation class because "she loves music" and felt taking a class would motivate her to pursue her piano lessons.

"It has opened up a different world for me and I enjoy interacting with people of all ages in my class," Hendrick said.

Many of the younger students say they enjoy having older students in their classes and the variety in ages can make class discussions interesting.



## College Wire

### College Has Innovative Approach To Deadbeats

HIRAM, Ohio (CPS)-A small liberal arts college has come up with a plan to put an end to delinquent billpayers.

Students with overdue tuition bills have been locked out of their dormitory rooms at Hiram College.

Last fall, the school warned students of the move after estimating that unpaid bills totaled hundreds of thousands of dollars. When students returned this year, the locks on their dorm rooms had been changed. To get new keys, students and parents had to work out payment plans with school officials.

### California Regents Launch Search For President

(CPS)-A special committee has been appointed by the Board of Regents to select a replacement for David Gardner, who is retiring Nov. 14 as president of the University of California system.

After a nationwide search, expected to be completed by the end of January, the committee will consider the candidates and advise the Board of Regents.

The regents likely will announce Gardner's replacement by the end of the summer, said Mike Alva, a spokesman for the president's office.

### College Student Accused Of Killing Girlfriend

PENSACOLA, Fla. (CPS)-An 18-year-old University of West Florida student has been accused of stabbing his former girlfriend to death in a state park.

The body of Lauren Virginia Ramsey, 15, an honor student at Pensacola High School, was found beaten and stabbed Christmas Eve on a deserted stretch of the Gulf Islands National Seashore.

Sean Patrick Esty, also a graduate of Pensacola High School, was arrested in mid-January at a restaurant where he worked. A grand jury will determine whether Esty should be indicted.

### Newspaper Associations Announce Merger

NEW YORK (CPS)-The American Newspaper Publishers Association and the Newspaper Advertising Bureau, the two largest associations in the newspaper industry, recently agreed to merge their organizations by July 1.

"This is a momentous undertaking for the newspaper industry, which is being done in response to both our members' needs and the changing times," said ANPA Chairman Robert Erburu.

The merger was announced after an independent study showed that most newspaper executives believed the industry needed to speak with a common voice, particularly in lobbying the government and promoting advertising.

### Project Celebrates 2,500 Years of Democracy

SANTA CRUZ, Calif. (CPS)--An ambitious project sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities will celebrate the birth and development of democracy around the globe.

The project, entitled "Democracy 500" will take place this summer and continue into 1993.

The NEH is funding a series of events designed to bring a better understanding to the public of what democracy meant to the ancient Greeks when they formed participatory government 2,500 years ago.

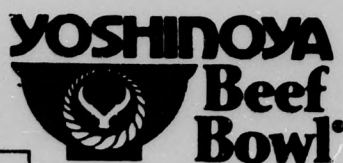
The concept for the elaborate project was developed by the American School of Classical Studies in Athens, Greece, an institution founded by American archaeologists in 1881 to educate people about Greek civilization.

Planned events include an institute on Athenian democracy to be held this summer on the University of California's Santa Cruz campus, a scholarly conference on "Democracy Ancient and Modern" to be held in 1993 at the nation's Capitol, and an exhibition of documents and artifacts from classical Athens to be displayed in the spring and summer of 1993 in the rotunda of the National Archives in Washington.

COUPON

## Get a Free Bowl

If you're tired of the same old fast food, taste the difference at a Yoshinoya Beef Bowl restaurant. Buy one bowl and get an identical bowl FREE. Valid only with this SMC coupon. Offer expires Feb. 28, 1992

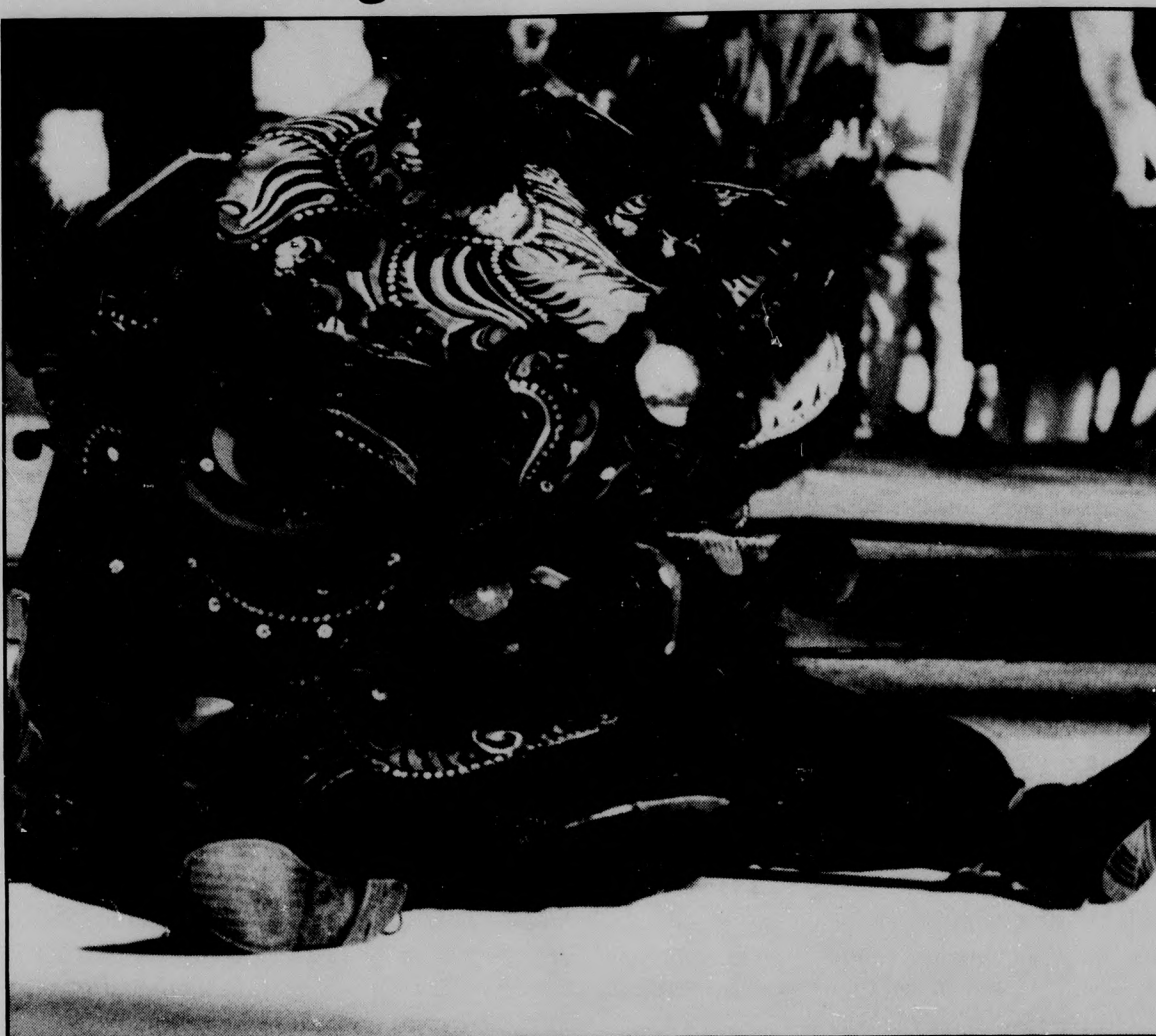


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## In like a dragon...



Dave Thomas / el Don

TET-Members of the Vietnamese Club participate in the dragon dance, a traditional part of the lunar new year's celebration. The dragon, a symbol of good luck, takes the sins and grief of the old year on itself, dies, and then is resurrected.

## Note This

## Health Center sponsors National Condom Week

By William Stewart Thomblison  
el Don Editor in Chief

JOHNSON CENTER, Santa Ana - Selling prophylactics at bargain prices and screening the humorous video *Condom-eze* are among the activities the Student Health Center is planning for National Condom Week, which starts today and runs through Feb. 21.

National studies show that although they know the risks of infection from AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases, many college students still practice unsafe sex.

Arlene Warco, health center nurse and acting coordinator, agrees. She said that often it is only after something has happened in their own lives and they get a scare that people change their behavior. She compared this with the behavior that puts people at risk of heart attacks. "With AIDS," she said, "you don't get a second chance."

Health center employees say that there was a marked increase in the number of students getting condoms at the health center after "Magic" Johnson announced that he had tested positive for the HIV virus last November. Demand remained high through the end of the semester, they said. At the time, the Student Health Center was giving away condoms.

Health center employees say that,

because of budget cut-backs, they can no longer do this. Now that they sell them they are distributing very few of them. During the first three weeks of school, a little over two dozen have been sold.

Warco is afraid that many students are engaging in unsafe sex.

Normally, the Student Health Center sells condoms at three for \$1, which is about cost. During National Condom Week, however, it is selling them at five for \$1.

*Condom-eze* is an amusing instructional video, in the style of old-fashioned newsreels, on how to buy, put on, and take off the protective sheaths.

The health center also has literature on AIDS and other health problems.

During the week of Feb. 24-28, the health center will offer free measles-mumps-rubella vaccinations, TB skin tests and tetanus boosters. Health center employees say that many RSC students will need these before transferring to four-year schools.

When school is in session, the Student Health Center operates as a regular medical clinic. Students can get first aid or see the center's physicians or psychiatrists at no charge.

The health center also can do blood tests, pap smears and other laboratory work, although fees are charged for those services.



## CRIME:

Vandalism, break-ins plague campus

Continued from Page 1

to beautify such towers, and that he is more concerned with stopping crime than the aesthetics of the college.

Although burglaries are on the rise, Johnson reported that theft and petty theft were down by 30 percent over the past six months. He said burglaries were regarded as forcible entries... thefts and petty thefts are not; and each is logged separately.

According to Johnson an increase in violent crimes including a near rape and three armed robberies over the past year indicated a need to re-vamp and add too existing security.

Weekend vandalism of the Santa

Ana campus has increased 69 percent in the past 12 months and between Nov. 30 and Dec. 1 a rash of burglaries, attempted burglaries and vandalism occurred involving the breaking into of five office/storage areas, the burglarizing five cars and the burning of two portable toilets located near the hand-ball courts.

Some employees think that the college might be better served by an agency on campus that would have the authority to make arrests. According to David Dobos, dean of students, "The majority of problems on campus are non-student involved. I'm really re-thinking the move [we made] from police to security." Campus security has no more authority [to make an arrest] than you or I do."

Dobos said presently there is no one at the college who really has any authority over non-students. "I'm not anxious to see security with guns-but they need to have some way to make arrests."

## RULES: Sexual assault, computer tampering

now cause for expulsion

Continued from Page 1

punish them [for such acts]," said David Dobos, dean of students. Revisions to the guidelines not only prohibit computer tampering but also prohibit sexual assault and physical abuse including rape, forced sodomy, forced oral copulation, rape by a foreign object, sexual battery, or threat or assault, or any conduct that threatens the health and safety of the alleged victims.

These revisions come after a 24-year-old Garden Grove male auto technology student with a 3.7 grade point average allegedly sexually harassed a female student from October of 1990 to September of 1991.

Although the names of the students have not been released, pending an ongoing investigation, this was the second time that this particular student had been accused of sexual harassment at RSC, Dobos said.

After the second victim repeatedly told the man to stop bothering her, she reported the incident to Dobos. The man then allegedly escalated his efforts and began stalking the victim.

The victim was repeatedly harassed. RSC sources say he left notes on her car and at her house. He visited her place of employment. He telephoned her repeatedly. He allegedly threatened to enter her TRW records and alter them, as well.

On one occasion, he left flowers inside her locked car. And on another occasion, he allegedly hammered 16 penny nails into the door locks of her car so that she would be unable to lock it.

In mid-October, Dobos recommended that the accused student be expelled. He was expelled on grounds other than computer tampering and sexual harassment. The man remains at large.

## CONLEY:

Continued from Page 1

faculty and the Board can work in a positive atmosphere towards meeting the student's needs, as well as fulfilling them."

For two years Conley has served as a trustee and as a representative for the Orange County Legislative Task Force.

Conley said that the most challenging aspect of working with the Legislative Task Force was the Proposition 98 issue, which required the state legislature to mandate guaranteed funding for schools. He said, "Part of the effects of working with Proposition 98, will be reducing class size."

Right now Conley is concerned with recent demands from the English as a second language and vocational departments. He said, "The vocational department needs to update equipment to match what is used in the work place."

Pete Maddox, the new Board clerk who also serves on the Orange County School Boards Association, said that the ESL department needs

## Trustee appointed for Area 3 vacancy

SANTA ANA - Mara Brandman, a homemaker and mother of five, was unanimously appointed to the RSCCD Board of Trustees Jan. 23, replacing John

Dowden who served constituents in Trustee Area 3 which is the East Orange and Anaheim Hills area.

Brandman was selected from 18 candidates interviewed for the vacancy. She was officially sworn in on Jan. 27.

Brandman is cur-



New Trustee Mara Brandman

rently president of the Orange Park Acres association and is involved in many community related services such as the Rural Orange Coordinating Council, Citizens Steering Committee and Orange Unified School District Gifted And Talented Education program. She also is active in fund raising with Prentice Day School for children with dyslexia.

"I believe in public access to education, and I am an advocate of all forms of higher education. I'm very pleased to become a part of the fine job Rancho is doing for residents of the district," Brandman said.

Brandman will serve the rest of Dowden's term that is up in November 1992 and she will then be eligible to run for re-election.

Brandman is currently pursuing his studies at U.C.L.A. in Graduate School of Management. Conley has been teaching visual arts at Goldenwest Community College for 17 years and has chaired that department for the past five years.

He resides in Santa Ana with his wife and eight-year-old daughter and is involved in the art community as well as public service organizations. Conley also holds an executive board position for the Grove Shakespeare Festival in Garden Grove, the Santa Ana 2000 Committee and the Youth Task Force.

As part of his outside activities some interests include traveling with his family, especially to London. From time to time, students have accompanied him to expand their interests in prints, which he lectures about at various colleges.

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| 3. COMBO        | 3 15 |
| 4. YAKITORI     | 2 65 |

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- |                         |      |
|-------------------------|------|
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Served w/ Rice

- |                  |      |
|------------------|------|
| 7. CHICKEN SALAD | 2 85 |
| 2. BEEF SALAD    | 2 95 |

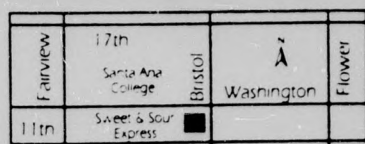
#### SIDE DISH

- |              |      |
|--------------|------|
| EGG ROLL     | 59   |
| TERI CHICKEN | 1 50 |
| YAKITORI     | 1 65 |
| STEAM RICE   | 90   |

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|--------------|----|
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| COKE, PEPSI, |    |
| 7-UP         |    |
| HOT TEA      | 50 |
| COFFEE       | 50 |
| ICED TEA     | 60 |

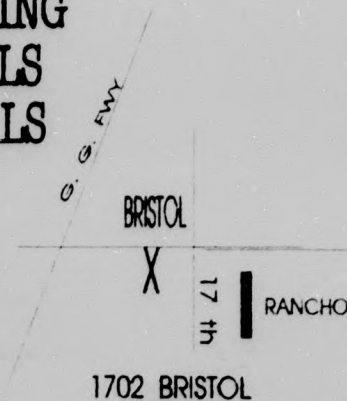
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el Don  
Special Report

By Amy Reynolds  
Special to el Don

(CPS)-Caryl Ann Minor's amusement is obvious as she recalls a run-in she had years earlier, at the age of 50, in freshman English with a "cute young man" about 19 years old.

"He was the nicest, most sincere young man," the 55-year-old graduate student says, "and he came up to me after class and said, 'Would you mind me asking what you are doing here?'"

"I said that this is something I always wanted to do. You think you kids are the only ones who can do what you want to do?"

With millions of people like Caryl Ann Minor going back to school, that question is slowly fading from higher education. Older students are returning to the classroom in unprecedented numbers.

According to 1989 Census Bureau information, 3.3 million college students were age 30 or older - double the number 15 years ago. In 1989, one of every five women in college was 35 or older.

Now, the National Center for Education Statistics reports that 43 percent of all college students are 25 or older, up from 39 percent in 1981. Estimates for 1992 expect the enrollment of students 25 or older to bypass the 7 million mark.

One researcher at the NCES offered an interpretation of the flood. "One of the things that happens, the economy slows and people will return to school."

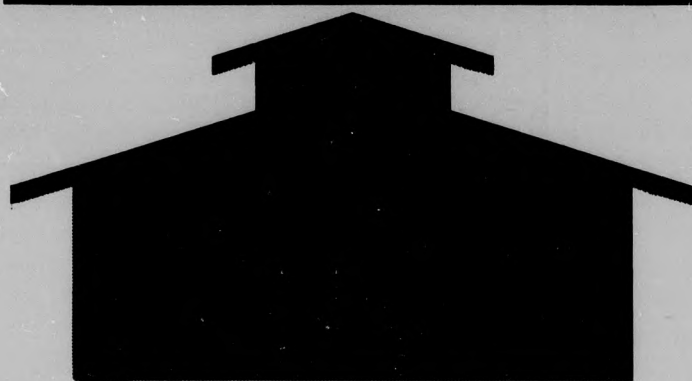
Others agree.

"We have seen for a long time that when the economy goes down...a lot of people cycle back into the university," says Kay Holmberg, adult student program coordinator at Iowa State University. Not only does it buy time while the economy recovers, but Holmberg says returning to school "increases their chances in the job market," which is becoming more competitive.

Although economic hardship is one common explanation for the phenomenon, it is certainly not the only one, nor is it the most popular. Many of the students themselves say self-improvement and missed opportunities in their youth are perhaps the biggest motivating factors.

Minor worked with her husband to build a family fishing business off Lake Erie after the two married, she at the age

## Welcome Back



## Older students return to school in record numbers

of 17. Two children and more than three decades later, Minor longed to return to school.

"One fall I looked out at the leaves falling and saw myself," she says. "I love my family...but I let my real self get lost in the process of being a wife and mom."

So Minor, who hadn't graduated from high school, enrolled in classes to earn her GED. Enrollment at Edinboro University of Pennsylvania soon followed.

"I latched onto this kaleidoscope of thoughts and ideas I'd never been exposed to," Minor says. "It was like a big party."

Her success and enthusiasm led her daughter Shellie, then 34, to return to college as well. Mother and daughter graduated together - Caryl Ann magna cum laude and Shellie with a 4.0 - in May 1991. In September, Caryl Ann started graduate school at Purdue University.

"During the five years I've been in school, I was the exception when I started. But there's been a tremendous jump," she says of older students.

In January 1991, Norman Tognazzini, who returned to college eight years ago at the age of 33, founded the National

Association of Returning Students in Salem, Ore. NARS is a non-profit organization designed to offer financial and social support to older students and to help them understand the challenges of college.

"The one big thing is financial. Some people are giving up X amount of income by returning to school," Tognazzini says. "If it's a two-parent household, there's the stress and frustration that adds psychological pressure. Another problem is scheduling. If someone chooses to work, they need someone to work around them."

Another problem is child care.

But, Tognazzini says that because the college population 25 or over numbers more than 7 million, colleges are more sensitive to needs of these students.

Holmberg says Iowa State's Adult Student Program is one of the earliest established, in place since 1967. Since then, the school has implemented numerous programs for adult students and has worked to establish financial aid packages, one-on-one advising and counseling seminars and has revamped student scheduling to help accommodate older students' needs.

Companies are also aware of the personal needs and professional benefits of education and many are encouraging employees to return to college for advanced degrees. Many will pay tuition and grant a leave of absence. IBM Corp. is one example.

And from the universities' standpoint, the older students are welcome. "It's like Rip Van Winkle waking up," Holmberg says. "Colleges and universities are now actively recruiting all students and on that sense you will see universities making increased efforts" to reach older students. Especially since "the high school population has dried up" and budget cuts have hurt institutions financially, she says.

Older students say faculty and administrators need to adjust to their presence. "They need to recognize that the individuals are, for the most part, giving up a great deal to be in their classroom and that the typical adult student will bring a lot of experience into the classroom," Tognazzini says.

As for fellow younger students, Tognazzini says, "A lot...resent them...they want to get away from a parent figure and then there's a parent sitting next to them in class. But, we've also seen the opposite. Often there's a great camaraderie there."

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Dan Acosta/ el Don Photo

**WET AND WILD** - Motorists found themselves stranded this week as several storms caused flash floods throughout Orange and L.A. counties. The National Weather Service is predicting more rain for the weekend.

# RAIN DROPS

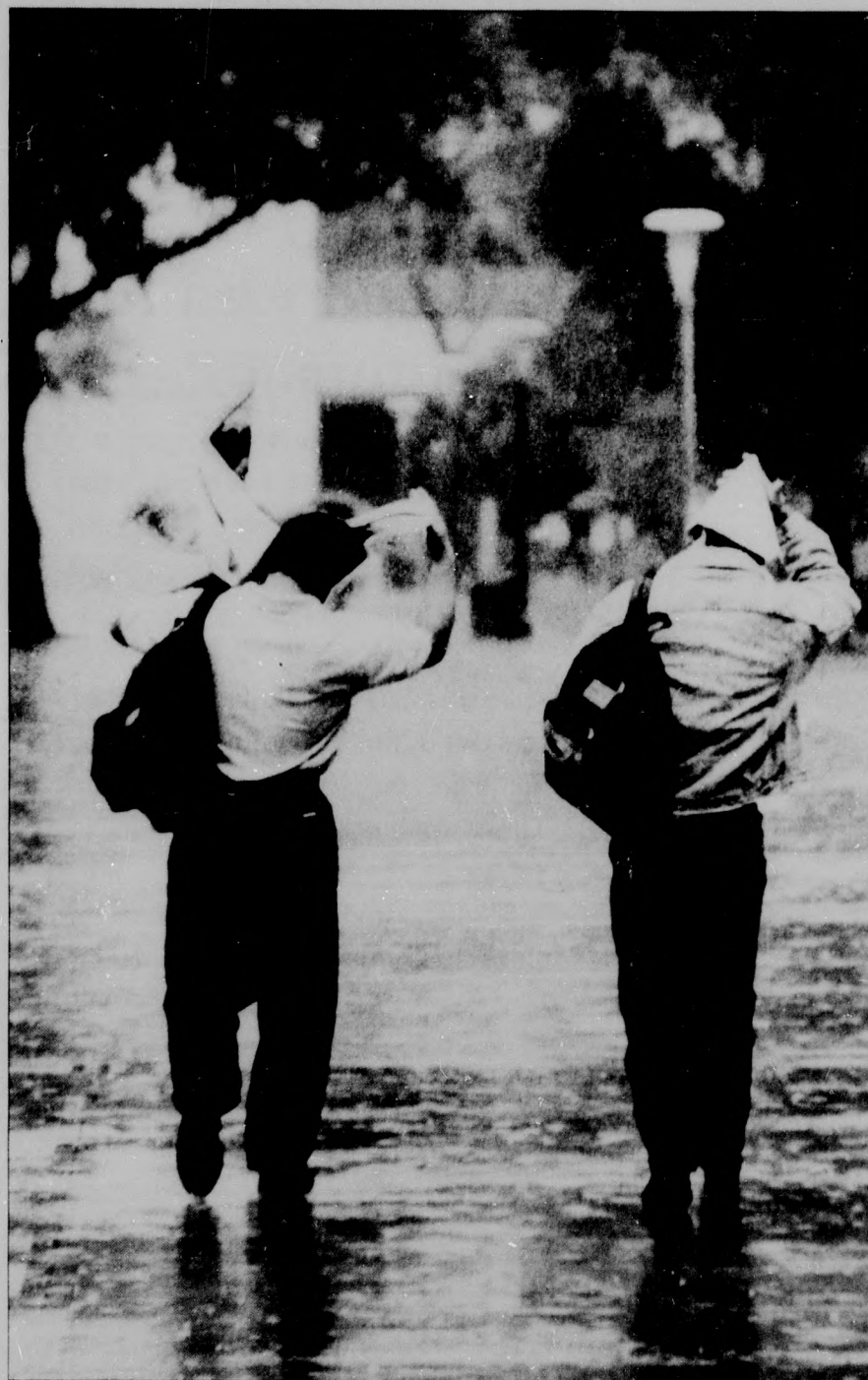
## Keep Falling...

Rancho Santiago College was closed Wednesday as winter storms swept through the southland this week dumping as much as 13 inches in parts of southern California. The heavy rains caused rampant flooding and the closure of several freeways and main thoroughfares. Mud slides and rising creeks took the lives of seven southlanders. A Ventura woman, who was nine months pregnant, and her husband were killed when mud crashed through their bedroom window and suffocated them. Perhaps the most gripping story comes from the death of an Encino teen-ager when he slipped on his bike and fell into the Los Angeles river. Three attempts were made to save the youth but he succumbed to the frigid water and the racing current. Gov. Pete Wilson has declared Ventura and L.A. counties disaster areas making them eligible for state aid.



Cindy Licerio/ el Don Photo

**WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE** - RSC had to batten down its hatches Wednesday as storms drenched the county.



Cindy Licerio/ el Don Photo

**SOAKING** - RSC students sought cover under anything available as rains deluged the southland. The rains, combined with flood threats from the Santa Ana River, caused RSC to shut down on Wednesday.



## STAFF EDITORIALS

### People need information to make intelligent decisions

For far too long, RSC administrators have followed the rule "What the public doesn't know won't hurt us."

Chancellor Vivian Blevins has promised a new openness in communications. She says that she believes that people should be given as much information as possible so that they can make informed, intelligent decisions.

We applaud Blevins' position. We hope that under her leadership a new attitude of openness soon trickles down throughout the district's many layers of administration.

### Bill Clinton: He's no Dan Quayle

One of the problems with being the front runner is that you become the one everybody throws stones at. Just ask Arkansas Gov. Bill Clinton.

On ABC-TV's *Nightline*, Wednesday night, Clinton complained that for the last three weeks, instead of talking about the issues, "all I've been asked about by the press is a woman I didn't sleep with and a draft I didn't dodge."

Ironically, Clinton's war record is certainly better than Vice President Quayle's. While Quayle supported the war, he thought that he was too good to fight in it. Clinton was against the war--as many people were at the time--but was willing to be drafted to fight in it anyway.

We do have a problem with Clinton's present position on the draft, however. He now says that he opposes selective conscientious objection to a declared war. You must either be opposed to all war whatsoever or be eligible to be to be drafted to fight in a war, however unjust it might be.

This ignores the idea that some wars can be just and others unjust, and that the individual is responsible if he fights in an unjust one, which became official U.S. doctrine by our participation in the Nuremberg trials after World War II.

### Company has good idea for marketing its automobiles

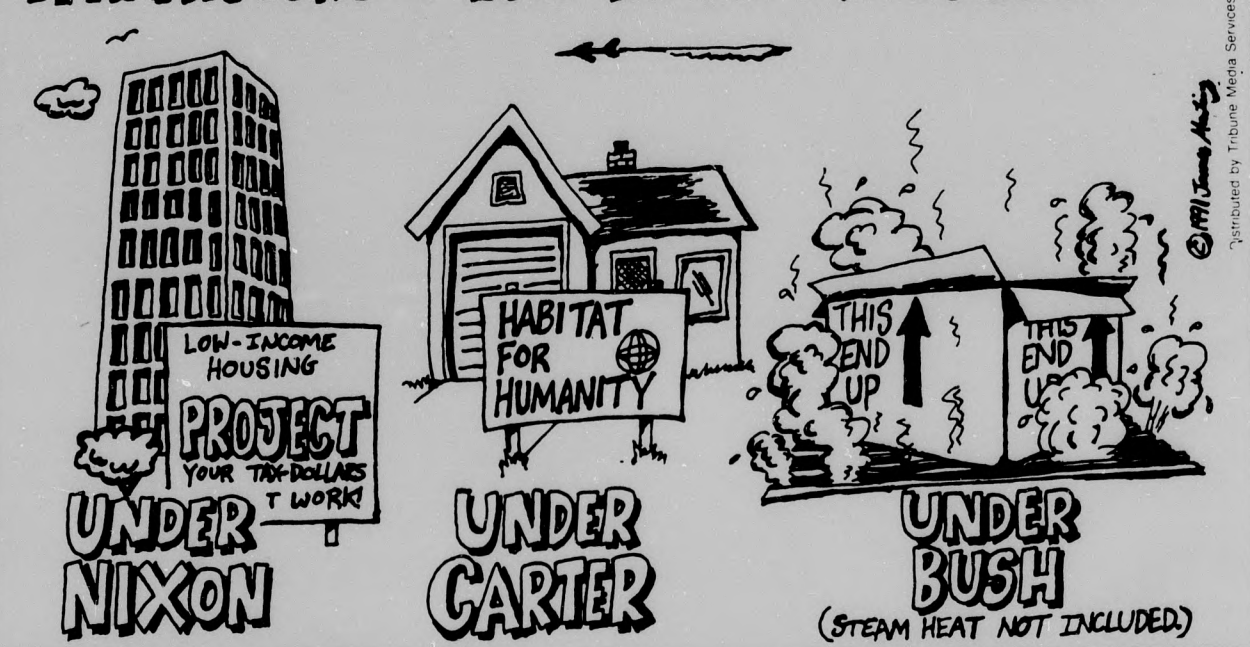
One company has come up with a plan that may overcome consumer's reluctance to go into debt to buy a new car in the middle of a recession. If you buy a new car from them, and get laid off, they will take care of your car payments -- and even the insurance on the car -- for as long as you are laid-off, up to one year.

It's innovative thinking like this that will get Detroit out of its slump, get American cars out of the showrooms and onto the streets, and put America back to work.

Oh, wait a minute. The company offering the plan is Volkswagen.

Guess it's not such a clever idea, after all. It looks like it's just another example of unfair competition by a foreign automaker.

## THE HISTORY OF LOW-INCOME HOUSING...



Thea Gavin

## Moral turn-around needed

### ■ You can't charge happiness on your VISA card

THERE'S NOT much hope for a quick fix of the economy. Consumer confidence is down, say the experts, who are waiting for the great American consumer to hit the malls and spend this country out of the recession.

What if, instead of lacking confidence in the economy, people were shopping less and enjoying life more because of a wholesale change in attitude from the conspicuous consumption of the 80s?

The 1990s have already been labeled as a time of diminished expectations, but wouldn't it be great if the last few years before the turn of the century could also mark a turn in attitude from the self-centeredness and greed of the past?

Just imagine if . . .

- instead of forever seeking more and better stuff, people were actually content with the abundance they already had . . .
- instead of abandoning infants to day care, parents made children a priority over careerism and self-fulfillment . . .
- instead of expecting the government to solve social problems by throwing tax dollars at them, citizens took back responsibility for their fellow human beings and started helping each other.

Isn't life more about relationships and caring for others than acquiring things and fulfilling only ourself? Few older folks, looking back on their lives, wish that they had spent more time getting a tan, selling more widgets or writing more office reports. Their regrets are usually over a child's missed Little League games or dance recitals, or not being there for a friend because work deadlines were pressing.

The 90s recession can become a rich time of examining priorities and stripping away the layers of credit card plastic to discover what really is important in life.

People can begin by separating needs and wants. Unfortunately, for many years the U.S. has had a "want-driven" economy. People think that if only they could get a face lift, or a later model car, or a promotion.... then happiness would be theirs.

Baloney. What kind of society has resulted from this idiotic passion for the superficial? Shopping has become a national pastime. Parents shuffle their children off to strangers while they chase after bigger and better things. Psychiatric care for both adults and children is now a growth industry.

Even more than economic improvement, the United States needs a recovery in values. Wouldn't it be great if history remembered the 1990s as the decade of revised priorities?

## Who should decide who should die?

By Jeanne Barkemeyer de Wit  
el Don Staff Writer

I'VE BEEN hearing a lot of talk about euthanasia lately. I'm disturbed at how quickly some people are willing to discard the frail or the elderly. There are no black or white boundaries when it comes to dying. There is no reprieve.

Whenever I hear the word *euthanasia*, my mind goes back to Nazi Germany. They euthanized people under the guise of creating a master race. During World War II, it actually became a growth industry. I shudder when I think of the millions killed.

I'll grant you that America today has little in common with Nazi Germany. But let's not gloss over the facts here. Killing is killing, how ever gently you express the term. When you euthanize a person they don't just go into a deep sleep. They die.

The proponents of euthanasia say their aim is to reduce unnecessary suffering. I know what it is to feel pain, I've attempted suicide twice. Luckily I survived.

I don't know what I'd do if I were

forced to endure that amount of pain again. For now, I choose life. However, if and when the time comes, it will be my choice. I will never place the burden of my pain on someone I love.

Suicide is a deeply personal decision, a process that has been part of civilization for centuries. As long as there is pain and despair, people will continue to commit suicide. No amount of legislation, pro or con will change that.

If assisted suicide becomes legal, who decides at what point any of us dies? How do you measure suffering, pain or depression? And once that line is drawn. . . what then? Who among us is fit to judge the value and worth of other's lives, or the extent of their suffering? What sane person would want to?

Four years ago, when my mother suffered a stroke, it was suggested that my father and I place her in a home. There, I was told, she could quietly die. I'm still left stunned and speechless by the idea. Luckily my father and I were able to care for her by ourselves. It was a heart breaking 12 months. Depressed and frustrated, there were

times my mother told me she wished she were dead. Tragically, just as my mother began her recovery, my father suffered a massive a heart attack. He died 90 days later. I have cared for Mom alone since. It hasn't been easy for either of us. Still, I'm grateful for each day we've had together. I'd do it again in a heartbeat.

My mother goes to college full-time now. She was accepted in Rancho Santiago's ABI (acquired brain injury) program. While she may never be the person she was before the stroke, the change in her has been nothing short of miraculous.

During the 10 years I worked in the medical field, I came to realize that life is a priceless gift. Fragile and delicate, it is a source of constant wonder. I am in awe of the tenacious hold that life has on all living creatures, and I will always fight to preserve it.

Americans need to stop looking for quick easy solutions to life's problems. Life is hard. People suffer, sometimes needlessly. If all of us took time to nurture and care for each other, perhaps living (and dying) would be much easier.

## RANCHO SANTIAGO COLLEGE el Don

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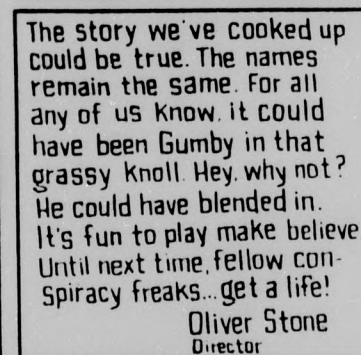
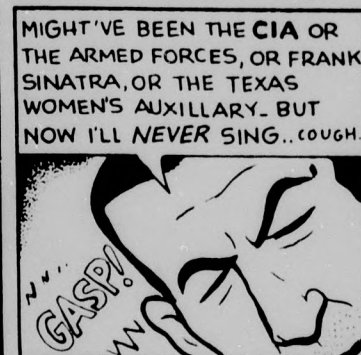
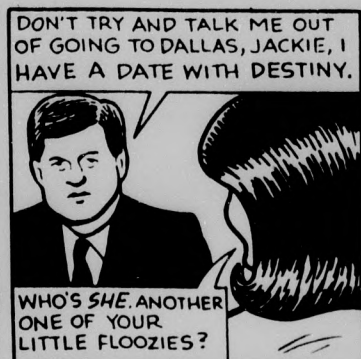
## Oliver Twisting: it's the reel thing

By F. Colin Kingston  
el Don Editor in Chief

"Dedicated to the young, in whose spirit the truth marches on." So ends Oliver Stone's controversial film about the assassination of John Fitzgerald Kennedy. The truth may indeed be marching on but it isn't always easy to tell which direction it is going — especially when it comes to the assassination of the 35th President of the United States.

Kennedy was gunned down in 1963 as his motorcade drove through the streets of Dallas. Kennedy's accused assassin, Lee Harvey Oswald, was gunned down a few days later in front of millions of viewers on live television. No Oswald, no trial. Therein lie the first seeds of the conspiracy theories surrounding Kennedy's death.

A special commission, lead by then-Chief Justice of the United States Earl Warren, conducted the official government investigation into the killing. Their unanimous conclusion, much maligned in recent years, was that Oswald acted alone.



Molton / Tribune Media Services

*JFK* traces the investigation of Jim Garrison, a District Attorney in New Orleans at the time of the assassination. Garrison conducted the only trial to date in the murder of Kennedy. The fact that Garrison lost this case is important to history but irrelevant to the point of the film.

As with all films based on true events some of Garrison's actions have been condensed or eliminated for storytelling purposes. In a documentary film this would be considered a sin. However, *JFK* is not

a documentary. It is a dramatic telling of the events following that tragic day in Dallas.

The film is certainly not without flaws. Stone combines actual news footage of that time with recreations of actual and theoretical events. Unless you pay close attention, it is difficult to tell when the film is presenting facts and when it is presenting theory. Those who are not very knowledgeable on the subject may have particular difficulty telling the difference.

*JFK* has created a storm of con-

problems with the way the investigation into the assassination was handled. They are too numerous to mention here but they do exist. That doesn't mean there was a governmental conspiracy to kill Kennedy. But these things do warrant an explanation and we do deserve the answers.

Blame Oliver Stone for the way he delivers his message if you want to. Don't silence the message itself, however. Unless, of course, you are part of a conspiracy to keep it from being heard!

trovery. Many joke that Stone has rewritten history. The cartoon above this column is just one example. However, these people have missed the entire point of the film.

Stone perceives the American public as being in a coma. He made *JFK* to try to wake us out of it. The message of the film is that it is not unpatriotic to question our government. In fact, Stone believes quite the opposite is true — that we should question simply because we are patriotic.

There are obvious

## Black History Month

### Let's stop thinking in racial and ethnic terms

By Kim Nelson  
el Don Staff Writer

Setting aside a whole month of February to recognize Black Americans who have made an impact on our society sounds like a great idea. After all, most of us could use a refresher course in American history.

But not to recognize all the great Americans who gave of themselves to benefit others or only recognizing them in select groups, separates all our diverse cultures and perpetuates racism.

Our history books are filled with information about thousands of Americans who gave totally of themselves, and without their unrelenting drive our lives today would be totally different.

There have been many Afro-Americans who were an extremely important part of our development as a nation. To ignore them would be a travesty.

But to separate a group of people by color from the rest of history only perpetuates more segregation and racial animosity.

Labeling a month and calling it Black History Month to recognize the achievements of black Americans helps to keep our society in segmented groups: us, them and others. Aren't we supposed to be the melting pot?

Isn't it about time we start melting together as a whole society and stop separating everything into racial groups? Isn't it about time we start seeing history as it really happened and not in segmented blocks arranged by color?

We should rewrite our history books to reflect all of history step-by-step and not separate it out in books by ethnic background, but by blocks of time. Then maybe people wouldn't feel so discriminated against and there wouldn't be a need for special recognition.

In 1884, T. Thomas Fortune, a leading black journalist, said, "As American Citizens, I feel it born in my nature to share in the fullest measure all that is America...feeling the full force of the fact that while we are classed Africans, just as Germans are classed as Germans, we are in all things American Citizens."

After all, most of the outstanding contributions made by African Americans were not accomplished because they themselves were black or trying to advance blacks but because they were great men and women with a vision trying to improve society as a whole.

To not recognize all Americans together — Black, Japanese, Hispanic, Native Americans, Whites, and other ethnic groups — who helped form this country perpetuates racial unrest and more segregation. We as a nation will never be able to live together in harmony until we start seeing each other as just Americans.

## National Condom Week

### Chastity: the safest response to the AIDS crisis

By Kari Salo  
el Don Staff Writer

Is there really such a thing as safe sex?

Since the famous (or infamous) sexual revolution of the 1960s, we as a society have been promiscuous sexually without counting the cost. Maybe we didn't even realize that there was a cost.

When you decide to have sex with someone, you take risks, physically and emotionally.

For years now, we've known about sexually transmitted diseases such as syphilis and gonorrhea, and the fact that the more sexually active we are, the greater the chances we have of contracting these diseases. However, if someone would have told us that death by a virus would be an outcome of a promiscuous lifestyle, we would have never believed it!

And then there was AIDS...

A woman can only get pregnant approximately three days each month. People who choose to be sexually active outside of a mutually monogamous relationship can get AIDS any time they have sex.

And thus the condom! In our short-sightedness we reach for what seems the easy solution. Proponents champion the condom as a "shield" against AIDS in their "safe sex" campaign, but is this really safe sex? ... A small, thin layer of latex that can break, slip and leak?



They can't even prevent pregnancy, so how can they prevent the passing of the AIDS virus? Now high-school-age students are being taught that they can be as sexually active as they want to, if they just be sure to use a condom. Excuse me, but I think that this new teaching theory has a few holes in it. What are we going to tell these kids five or 10 years down the road when they've contracted the HIV virus? "Sorry, I guess we were wrong?"

Why are we encouraging others to pursue a sexually active lifestyle when we know the risks involved? It's like handing someone a time bomb and saying, "Well, it might go off."

It seems that we view ourselves as immortal and indestructible. We never want to be told "no," and we certainly don't want to be told that we need to be more discriminating in anything that we do. We don't want to change our way of thinking and acting to cope with AIDS. As Richard Halverson, chaplain of the U.S. Senate once said, "we demand freedom without restraint — rights without responsibility — choice without

consequences -- pleasure without pain."

Abstinence until marriage and virginity? "You've got to be joking!" We call these ideas old fashioned and demand AIDS research be increased so that we don't have to change our lifestyles.

The U.S. government is spending more money on AIDS research, prevention and treatment than on any other disease including cancer and heart disease. But that's not good enough for some. When will it be "enough?" Only until there is a cure? Then we can go back to the good old days of multiple sex partners. Back to the time when we didn't have to show sexual responsibility and maturity.

We've totally lost perspective on this issue. We need to get back to the heart of the matter. Condoms aren't the answer to preserving lives, even if we would like to think otherwise. While many people hate to hear it, abstinence until marriage is the only solution to controlling AIDS, to protecting our youth, and protecting both our hearts and our lives.



# WORTH KNOWING

Minority screenwriters make 63 cents for every dollar made by a white screenwriter.

# SOME OF LIFE'S LITTLE

# DIVERSIONS

# WORTH REPEATING

"I hate television. I hate it as much as peanuts. But I can't stop eating peanuts."  
- Orsen Welles

Volume 68, Number 2

February 14, 1992



Two Orange County television stations are offering programs in honor of Black History Month. KCTY-TV, Santa Ana's governmental cable channel, will present a TV forum on Black History Month. The live program airs on Feb. 26 from 7 - 9 p.m. Prominent panelists will be featured. Viewers will have a chance to call in and express their views to the panel. KCTY is available to Santa Ana cable subscribers on Channel 3.

KOCE-TV, Public Television for Orange County, continues its celebration of Black History Month with two exceptional programs.

"The Colored Museum" is a controversial comedy/musical special produced by George C. Wolfe. It will feature 10 sketches and musical parodies, many of which poke fun at the values shared by the black community. Some of the icons lampooned in the special include "Ebony" magazine and afros. "The Colored Museum" airs as part of PBS' acclaimed "Great Performances" series. It airs on Monday, Feb. 17 at 9 p.m., Channel 50.

Gregory Hines, one of the most versatile performers living today, hosts "Tap Dance in America." This features an all-star cast and film clips celebrating the history of tap dance in America. It also airs as part of PBS' "Great Performances" series and will be shown Monday, Feb. 24 at 9 p.m., Channel 50.

Legendary CBS newsman Edward R. Murrow will be profiled on an upcoming segment of PBS' American Masters series. Murrow is regarded by many of the best journalist in broadcast history. Barbara Walters, David Brinkley, and Walter Cronkite are interviewed on this program. Scheduled to air Tuesday, Feb. 25 at 9 p.m. on Channel 50.

George Lucas (of "Star Wars" and "Indiana Jones" fame) has teamed up with the ABC television network to bring you "The Young Indiana Jones Chronicles" a series based on the movie character made famous by Harrison Ford. Each segment features a 95-year-old Indiana Jones recalling an adventure from his youth. Viewers meet such notables as Teddy Roosevelt, Pancho Villa, Leo Tolstoy.

The first episode of "The Young Indiana Jones Chronicles" is a two-hour TV movie entitled "Curse of the Jackal." Don't expect the cliffhanger endings and non-stop action of the movie series. After all, this is only television. - F. Colin Kingston

## GALLERY REVIEW

## The eyes have it

By F. Colin Kingston  
el Don Editor in Chief

"Eye Remember - I Forget" is an intriguing multimedia exhibit focusing on Alzheimer's disease and its effects on victims and their families. The exhibit showcases the work of three very different artists, Slater Brown, Peter Reiss, and John Trees.

Brown's work is the most unusual of the three but that has more to do with the type of media she uses. Everything in Brown's exhibit is made out of lint. That's right, lint. Not only are there pictures made out of lint but the exhibit features an entire room made out of lint also.

Trees' use of mixed media includes tar paper, black linoleum and rusted nails. Reiss uses the more traditional black and white photography.

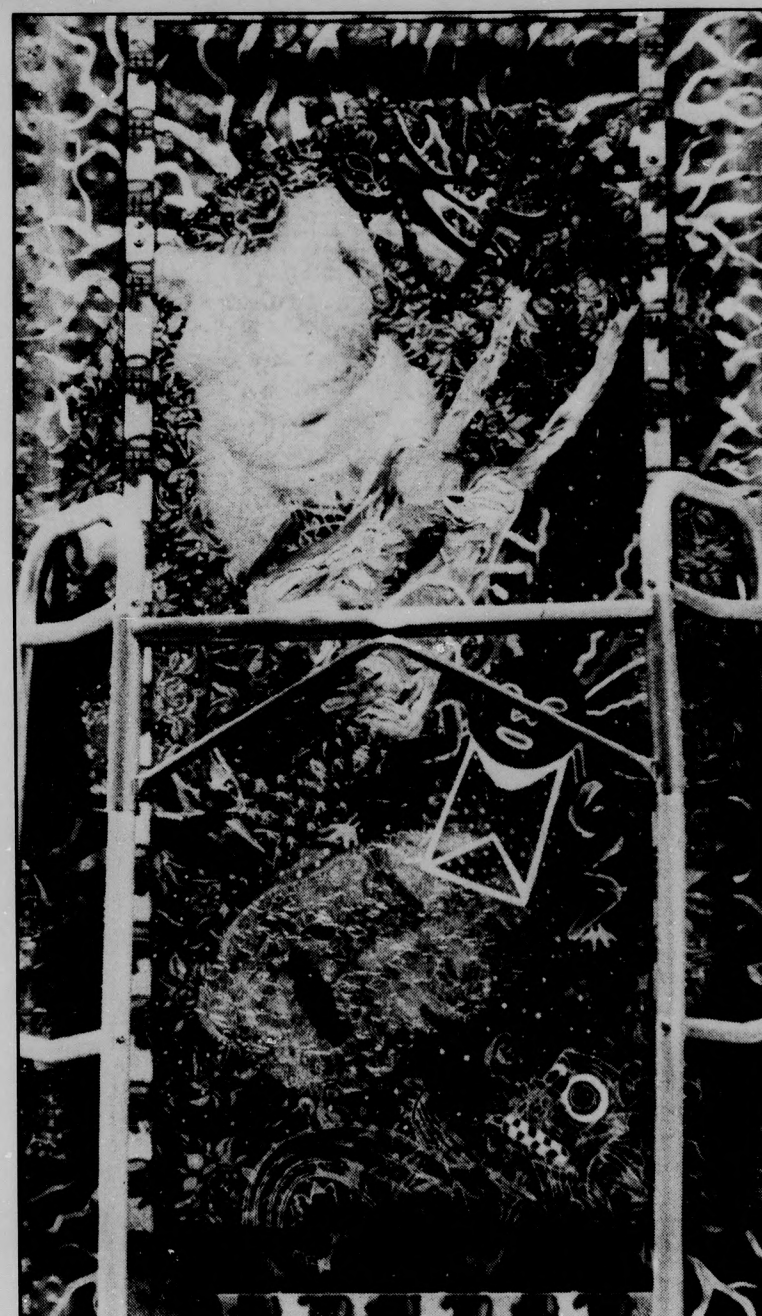
Not surprisingly, Brown's work draws the most comments. Doris Munn, an art student at RSC, commented, "I think the artist (Brown) is trying to say that having Alzheimers is like living in a fuzzy world. It's very different. It really got to me."

Munn had very favorable comments about the entire exhibit. "I thought the exhibit would be boring but now that I am here I am curious. I never thought about Alzheimers before but this has sparked an interest in me. I even got a brochure."

Sheila Lowerre, also a student at RSC, commented on Brown's work, "It's fascinating that something so common can be so real. It actually looks like a picture."

Trees' portion of the exhibit features work from his "Rest Home Series." Trees pours brown epoxy enamel on tar paper then uses rusty nails to create his images.

Many of Trees images are quite intriguing. Most feature Alzheimers victims in various stages of their illness. Two of the most striking images are "Even the Man in the Moon's Not Home" and "All Through the Night."



Graham Schildmeyer / el Don Photo

DON'T FORGET- John Trees' "My Mother's Last Dress" is part of exhibit dramatizing Alzheimer's disease.

"Not Home" features an elderly man sitting at the window seemingly oblivious to the world outside. Anyone who has had to endure seeing an elderly parent in the hospital can relate to "Night" and the hopeless feeling it conveys.

Reiss' photographs are nice but they do not convey the fact that each of these people has Alzheimers. This is not to say that Reiss' photos are not good. You just wouldn't guess these people had Alzheimers by looking at the photos.

"Eye Remember - I Forget" is worth paying a visit. It is located in the main gallery of Bldg. C on the main RSC campus. Call 564-5615 for tour information.

## What's up

RSC's Fine and Performing Arts Division presents a number of art exhibits, plays and concerts. Some of the events on tap for this semester include:

### Plays

"Equus" by Peter Shaffer - Presented by the Professional Actors Conservatory, this play dramatizes the relationship between a boy and a psychiatrist and the destructive power of a civilized society. Opens Feb. 21 in Phillips Hall on the main campus. Call 564-5661 for more information.

Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream" follows a royal marriage, a dispute between the King and Queen of the fairies and the passion of young love. "Dream" is Shakespeare's most popular comedy. Opens in Phillips Hall on April 3. Call 564-5661 for more information.

### Art Week, March 11-21

The work of African American artists will be spotlighted in lectures, workshops and exhibits. Dates and times still to be announced. Call 564-5600 for more information.

### Sculpture Exhibit, March 12 - April 2

The work of sculpture artist John Outterbridge will be featured. Outterbridge is the featured artist for ART WEEK. Opening reception: Wed., March 11, 6:30 - 8 p.m., Bldg. C.

### Dance Concert

RSC Student/Faculty Dance Concert opens April 24 at Phillips Hall on the main campus. Advanced student choreographers and RSC faculty members perform modern, jazz and tap dance routines. Call 564-5661 for more information.





BLACK HISTORY MONTH

## Goin' Uptown

### Black artists are leavin' their mark on Hollywood

By F. Colin Kingston  
el Don Editor in Chief

Blacks are an important part of Hollywood past, present, and future. Unfortunately, Hollywood's portrayal and treatment blacks is not one it can be entirely proud of.

#### The Early Years

Black directors were making films in Hollywood from the very beginning. Oscar Micheaux, Hollywood's first black director, made over 35 films in his 30-year career. His first film, "The Homesteaders," debuted in 1918. Films with all-black casts, such as "Hallalujah!" and "Hearts of Dixie," appeared in 1929. The first all-black western, "Harlem on the Prairie," appeared in 1938.

Sadly, many of Hollywood's early films perpetuated the stereotype that all blacks were dumb, docile, religious and had "good rhythm." There were films which were expectations but they were few and far between.

"Gone With The Wind" was the first big breakthrough film for blacks. Hattie McDaniel became the first black actress to win an Oscar for her portrayal of Mammy, opinionated and loyal servant to Scarlet O'Hara.

"GWTW" was the first film to receive heavy input from the National Academy for the Advancement Colored People. Due to their urging, the term "nigger" was replaced by "freedman." The 30's and 40's

The majority of roles offered to blacks in the 30s and 40s were that of servants, train porters, and characters who gave a film "comic relief." Characters added for "comic relief" were Kindhearted, good intentioned people who were always getting into trouble. In other words - many blacks were often portrayed as simpletons. Even when blacks did not play stereotypical characters they were clearly visitors in a white man's world.

Main characters (who were white) would often visit a nightclub and enjoy the likes of Cab



GOING UPTOWN-Sidney Poitier will receive the American Film Institute's Lifetime Achievement Award in late February.  
Photo Courtesy Warner Bros.

Calloway and Lena Horne. Such scenes rarely contributed anything to the plot other than to offer musical entertainment. This made it easy for the scenes to be cut out when the films played in the south. Audiences could still follow the plot.

Disney's "Song of the South", 1942, was from the good news/bad news department. "SOTS" combined live-action with Disney animation. It featured black actor James Baskett in the title role of Uncle Remus. Baskett earned a special Oscar for his performance. That was the good news. The bad news was that Uncle Remus was a slave on a southern plantation and seemed oblivious to his predicament. He seems almost happy to be there!

By the early 50s blacks had made inroads into Hollywood. Some films even dealt seriously with black issues. Performers such as Harry Belafonte, Sammy Davis Jr., Cicely Tyson and Ossie Davis became popular during this time.

One actor, Sidney Poitier, would go on to become one of the biggest stars in motion picture history. Poitier made his screen debut playing a medical intern in 1950s "Now Way Out." He went on to star in such classic films as "Guess Who Is Coming To Dinner" (with Katherine Hepburn and Spencer Tracey), "In The Heat of the Night" (with Rod Steiger) and "The Defiant Ones" (with Tony

Curtis).

In 1963 Poitier became the first black ever to win an Oscar for Best Actor for his performance in "Lilies of the Field." Poitier continues to act, produce, and direct. In 1967 he was the top box-office star in the country.

The 70s became known as the decade of "blacksplotation." Audiences of all races flocked to see such action films as "Shaft" and "Superfly." "Shaft" starred Richard Roundtree as a tough detective and contained lots of violence and sex. It was not an honest portrayal of black life but audiences found it entertaining. Audiences

soon tired of these films, but not before Issac Hayes became the first black to win an Oscar for his musical score for "Shaft."

The 1980s saw the emergence of such black stars as Whoopi Goldberg and Danny Glover. The most commercially successful black star in Hollywood during the 1980s was Eddie Murphy. Films like 48 Hours, Trading Places and Beverly Hills Cop made millions at the box office. Beverly Hills Cop remains the second highest-grossing comedy of all time.

The most outspoken and influential black filmmaker of the 80s was director/actor/producer Spike Lee. It is a quality Lee brings into the 90s. His films tell stories from the black perspective and address such issues as racism, hatred, and interracial sex.

What gives Lee his clout is the fact that his films garner both critical reviews and big box office. Because of his success Hollywood is desperately trying to recruit black filmmakers.

Blacks have played a vital role in Hollywood. Sadly, many doors still remain closed which should have been opened long ago. But there is hope. One color transcends all others in Hollywood - the color of money. Hollywood may have finally realized the full economic power of the black community. If so, more doors open.

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## THEY SAID IT...

"To take a team that was 3 and 19 last year in conference and teaching them how to win... That's our greatest challenge."  
-Kim Nutter, RSC's head softball coach after her team lost two close games in the Lidlifter Tourney.

## RANCHO SANTIAGO COLLEGE

el Don

# Sports

## IT'S A FACT

RSC assistant softball coach Mark Dye was a major league infielder with the Houston Astros. When an injury ended his career, he turned to fastpitch softball and became one of that sport's top players.

Vol.68 No.2

February 14, 1992

## SPORTS WIRE

### Sneddon named assistant Olympic baseball coach

Rancho Santiago head baseball coach Don Sneddon has been selected as an assistant coach of the U.S. Olympic baseball team. Sneddon, who has a 314-110 record in 10 years as the Dons' skipper, will join Team USA head coach Ron Fraser of Miami and four other top college coaches in preparing the Americans for the Barcelona games later this summer.

"I'm real excited about it," said Sneddon. "It's a great honor to be a part of putting together the top amateur baseball team in the United States. It's exciting for us, it's exciting for the school and it brings prestige to my program here."

Sneddon will scout players during the college season to determine who will be invited to tryouts starting June 4 at Team USA headquarters in Millington, Tenn. From there, a 25-man roster will be selected to travel the U.S. in a pre-Olympic schedule that will include games at several major league parks against teams from Japan, Cuba, Nicaragua and other countries. The roster will then be cut to 20 for the trip to Barcelona.

### Academic requirements tightened for JC athletes

The body which governs athletics in California's community colleges has voted to increase the academic requirements for JC athletes.

Meeting Jan. 31 in Irvine, the Community College League of California ruled that student athletes must take at least nine units per semester towards either an Associate of Arts degree or a certificate program as defined in the school's catalogue. Physical education classes in the sport an athlete plays will not count towards this requirement.

The new rule is effective July 1 for all incoming students, but students already enrolled have until July 1, 1994 to comply.

Don Sneddon, interim athletic director at RSC, said he favors the change. "I think it's very positive for our students here. I don't think it's going to be a problem for our athletes because right now they are required to obtain at least 48 units to transfer on. So they'd better be taking nine core classes, otherwise they wouldn't be graduating and we wouldn't be doing our job. So I think this will just reinforce what we're already doing, make it public and send a message to our athletes that this has to be done."

### Corbin 10th Don griddy to pen letter of intent

Bryan Corbin, a 5-10, 170 pound defensive back from Santa Ana, has signed a letter of intent to play at Lewis and Clark in Oregon. Corbin joins nine other Dons who will play at four-year schools next fall.

## Third loss to Gauchos this season ends RSC streak

By Ricky Robinson  
el Don Staff Writer

SANTA ANA - Rancho Santiago's inability to score down the stretch brought the Dons' five-game winning streak to an end Saturday in a 73-67 loss to the Saddleback Gauchos.

"We just did not make the baskets we needed," said Coach Dana Pagett. "Championships aren't given to you. You have to earn them."

The Gauchos' (14-11, 5-4) victory over the Dons (19-8, 7-2) was their third win over RSC this season. It also kept Rancho from clinching at least a tie for their third straight Orange Empire conference title.

"We played a pretty good game, but we stopped rebounding and shooting well down the stretch," reserve center Fred Amos said.

RSC appeared to be in charge as they went on a 9-0 run in the first 2:51 of the game. But the Gauchos quickly responded to the challenge by making a run of their own and tied the score at 18-18 with 9:56 left in the first half.

Despite falling behind by two points with under a minute left in the first half, the Dons tied the game at 35-35 on a steal and layup by Glenn Greene.

Eric Dahl's clutch three-point shooting in the second half kept the Dons close and tied the game again at 62-62 with 5:35 remaining. But after Saddleback's Josh Borella made two key free throws, the Gauchos took the lead for good at 3:58.

Ray Ankton led the Gauchos with 22 points, while Dee Boyer grabbed 15 rebounds.

Dahl led the Dons with 17 points. Amos was the rebound leader with 12 boards.

In earlier games, Rancho defeated Riverside 96-92 in overtime and Cypress 75-64.



Dave Thomas / el Don

CRUNCH TIME- Don forward Daryl Cole (50) and center Fred Amos (52) battle Saddleback's Dee Boyer for a rebound Saturday. The Gauchos beat RSC 73-67.

The Dons travel to Orange Coast for a game with the Pirates Saturday and return home on Wednesday to close out the conference schedule against Fullerton. Both games start at 7 p.m. The regional playoffs start on Feb. 29.

Saddleback 75,	Rancho Santiago 67
SADDLEBACK-Borella 13, Ankton 22, Smith 10, Boyer 15, Springfield 8, Craig 1, Barnett 3, Caesar 0, Stevenson 3.	
RSC-Greene 16, Dahl 17, Swanwick 3, Oronoz 8, Hossler 12, Torry 0, Ballesteros 1, Moore 0, Cole 2, Amos 8.	
Saddleback.....	35 40 75
RSC.....	35 49 67
THREE POINT LEADERS-Saddleback: Barnett; RSC: Dahl 3, Oronoz 2, Greene 1, Hossler 1.	
REBOUNDING LEADERS-Saddleback: Boyer 15; RSC: Amos 12.	
FOULED OUT: Saddleback: Boyer; RSC: Oronoz.	



Eric Campbell / el Don

BASE HIT- RSC shortstop Jennifer Raworth drives one against Orange Coast. The Lady Dons lost 1-0 in eight innings.

## Softball

# Pitching key to team's fresh start

By Ricky Robinson  
el Don Staff Writer

SANTA ANA-The RSC Lady Dons, hoping to rebuild after a disastrous 3-19 conference record last year, opened the 1992 season with a strong performance but finished third in the annual Rancho Santiago Lid Lifter Tournament last weekend.

The Lady Dons blanked Chaffey 2-0 in their first game behind the two-hit pitching of sophomore lefthander Celeste Gordon. In the second game against eventual tournament winner College of the Desert, RSC's Joycelyn Patrick lost a tense 2-1 struggle when Desert scored an unearned run in the bottom of the seventh inning. In the loser's bracket final, Rancho extended highly-regarded Orange Coast to overtime before losing 1-0 in the eighth inning under the international tie-breaker rule.

"Our pitching and defense are the strong points of our team," said Rancho head coach Kim Nutter. Still, she felt the Lady Dons could have done better. "We've got the talent, we know that we can compete with anybody. But now we need to learn how to win."

Please see SOFTBALL, Page 11



## SOFTBALL:

Continued from Page 10

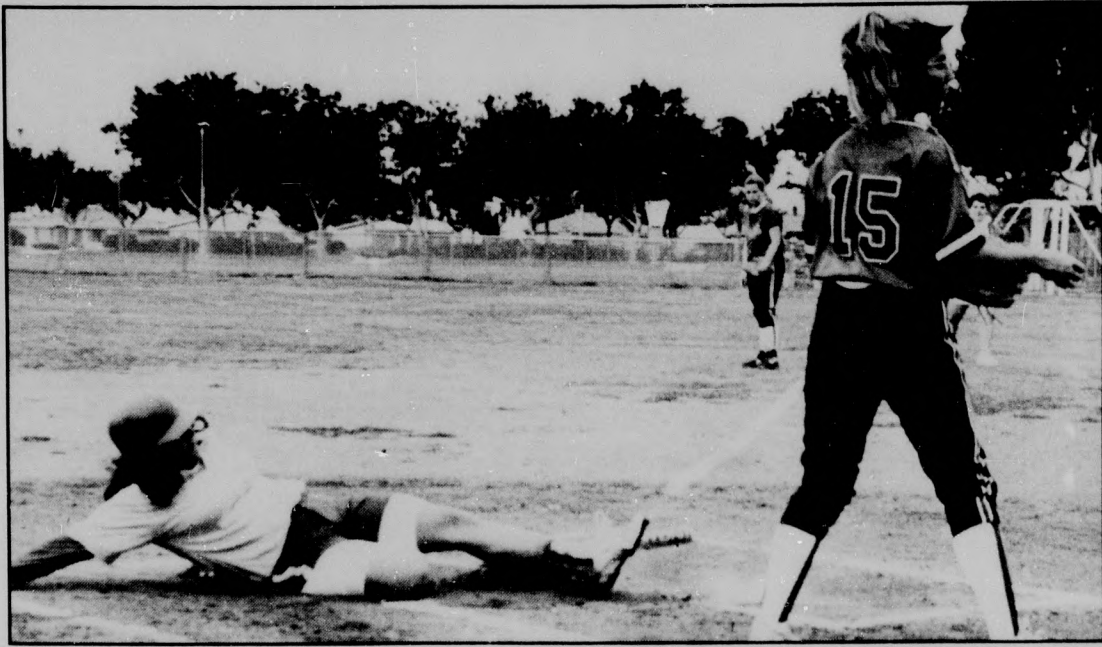
It's just going to take time."

Assistant coach Mark Dye praised several of the Lady Dons for their efforts in the tournament. "Celeste Gordon will be one of the best pitchers in the conference because of her great work ethic. Joycelyn Patrick is a good athlete who runs well, can hit the ball and play many positions. She'll take a lot of pressure off Celeste as our second pitcher," he said.

"Rachel Gomez has made tremendous improvement since the

fall practices. Tina Trujillo made some excellent plays in center field and is one of our better hitters. She has one of the prettier swings in the game. Jennifer Raworth is new at shortstop but doing an excellent job at a difficult position. Shannon O'Rourke has the best hands ever in women's softball. On a defensive level there's no one better. And Terri Henning, our third baseman, won't let you beat her. That's the attitude we want all of our players to have."

- Ev Phillips  
contributed to this story.



Eric Campbell / el Don

GAME OVER-RSC pitcher Joycelyn Patrick watches helplessly as winning run scores on throwing error in 2-1 Lady Don loss to College of the Desert Sunday.

## Commentary

## Opening games bring back baseball memories

Ev Phillips

Every spring when the baseball season opens, I get this overwhelming urge to run - not walk - to the nearest ballpark. It's been that way as long as I can remember. I can't explain why, but there's something about a ball game that draws me irresistibly to it. Maybe it's the buzz of the crowd, the smell of peanuts and tobacco, the crack of the bat or the possibility of extra innings (please, Lord, let this one go 20!). But one thing I do know: today's game will always bring back memories of games past, of players I've watched and fans I've met. Sunday was no exception. I was watching Rancho's Lidifter Softball Tournament and struck up a conversation with a black man sitting next to me. His name was Herbert Kline.

It seems that Herbert - fiftyish and recently retired from the military - had made the trip here from Adelanto with two of his long-time friends, Paul Dixon and Ed Thompson, who had been assigned to umpire Sunday's tournament games.

Herbert, Paul and Ed officiate various events around the Southland as a team. When only two of them can work a game, as was the case Sunday, the other goes along for the ride. They've been doing this together since 1976. Since Herbert was the odd man out this day, he spent the afternoon reminiscing with me.

As we talked, I could see that Paul and Ed - both black - were excellent umpires, their calls crisp and authoritative, their knowledge and command of the game solid. They were almost too good for this level of play. It reminded me of the many times I used to admire the work of Emmett Ashford long before he became the first black umpire in the major leagues.

Ashford toiled in obscurity, a victim of racial prejudice, for years in the Arizona-Texas, Western International and Pacific Coast Leagues, before finally getting his long-overdue shot at the big time.

After the RSC-Orange Coast game, I spoke to Kim Nutter, Rancho's first-year head softball coach. Kim is a product of the

highly-successful Cal Poly Pomona softball program headed up by former Orange Lionette greats Carol Spanks and Shirley Topley.

Topley was a Canadian sports legend who played softball in my hometown of Vancouver B.C. during the 1950s. As a kid, I saw her play many times before she moved south to join the Lionettes in the early 60s. When I came to Orange County in 1966, I became a Lionettes fan. Last October, after all these years, I finally got to meet Shirley in person at her induction to the Orange County Sports Hall of Fame - and thanked her for the memories.

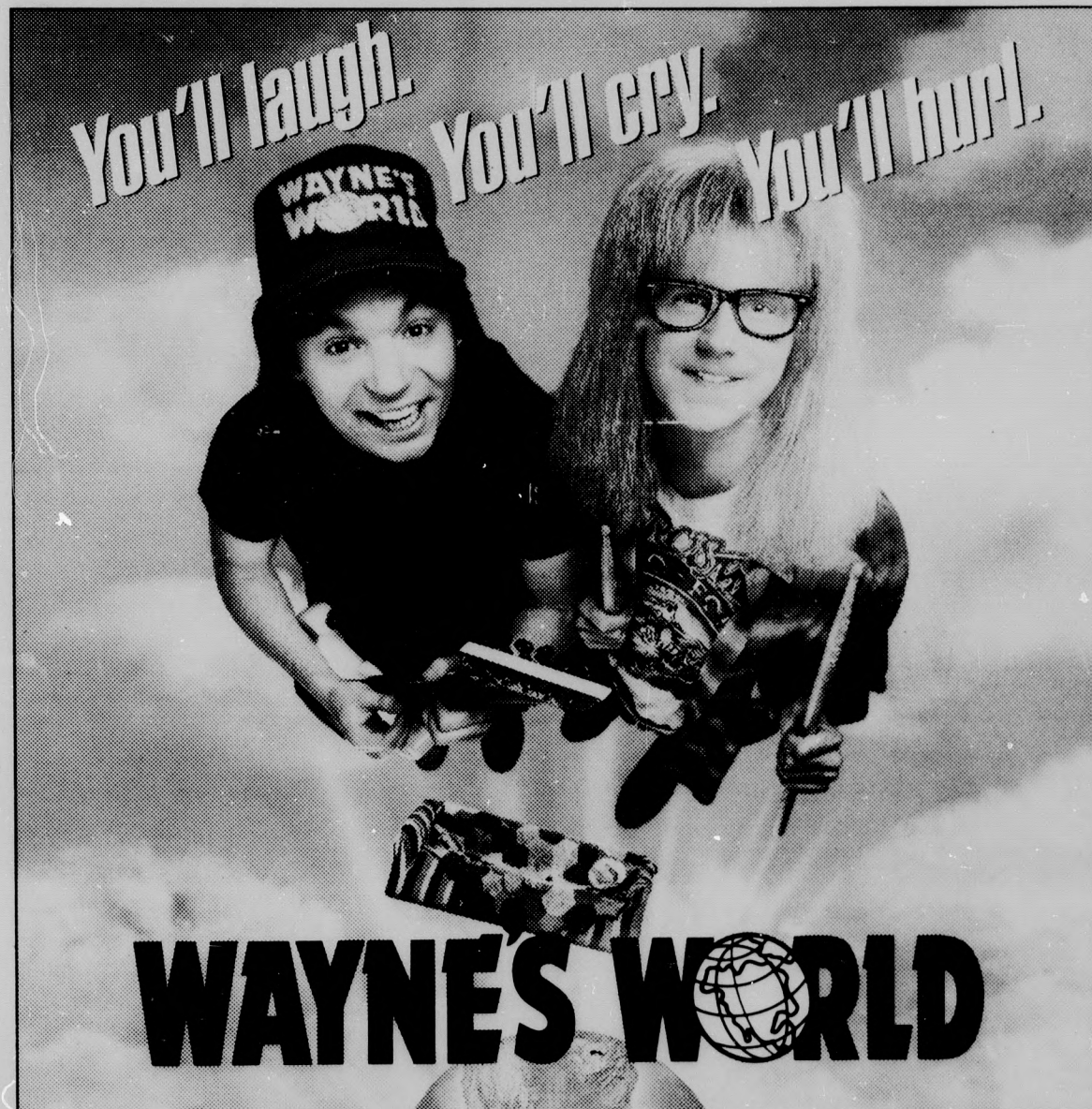
I also spoke to Mark Dye, Nutter's assistant coach with the Lady Dons. Mark was a rising star in the Oakland A's organization in the early 80s who made it to the major leagues as an infielder with the Houston Astros before a rotator cuff injury ended his baseball career. So he switched to fastpitch softball and became a world-class player on the smaller diamond.

As an old fastpitch fan, I had been

asking people over the years if they remembered a left-handed pitcher with the Camarillo Kings named Mark Smith, touted in the late 70s as the "black Ty Stofflet" of fastpitch softball. He was by far the fastest I had ever seen. But no one could remember him. Smith had been clocked at 112 mph from a distance of 40 feet (which looked even faster when you consider that he released the ball at the front of the pitcher's circle) and was virtually unhittable. In the course of a year, he would wear out three or four catchers with his blinding speed.

Coach Dye not only remembered Smith, but he also played against him in the 1986 International Softball Congress world tournament and went an amazing four for four. Smith is still pitching for a team in Santa Rosa and coach Dye is playing for the Long Beach Painters. Maybe history will repeat itself this year.

Memories. In baseball, you never know when the next ones are going to come along. It really is a small world.



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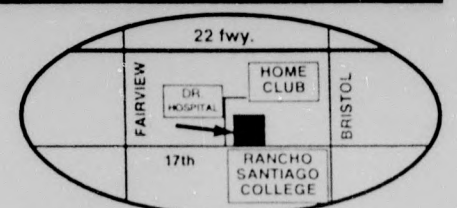
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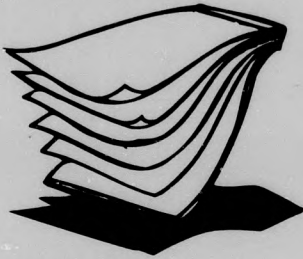


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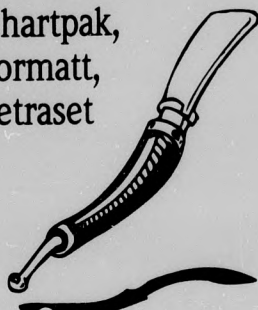


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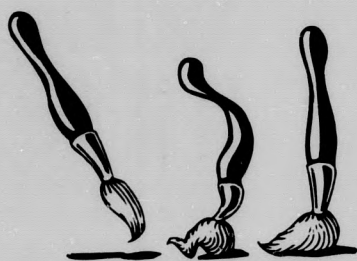


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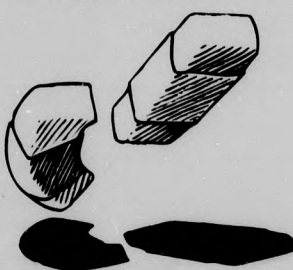
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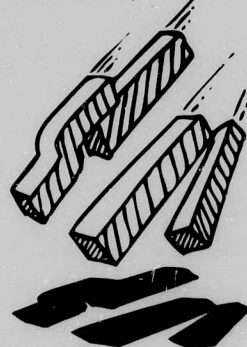
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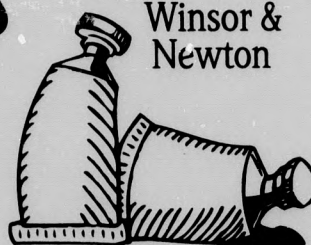
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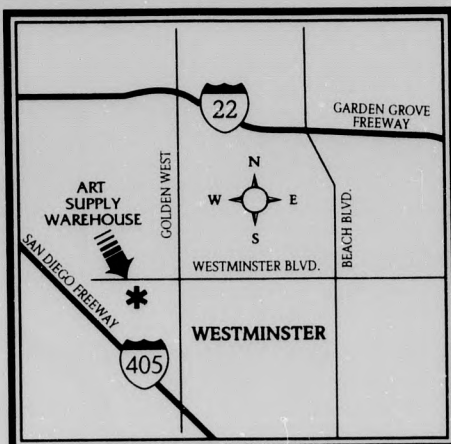
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